

# Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society

Vol. 13.2; Issue #56

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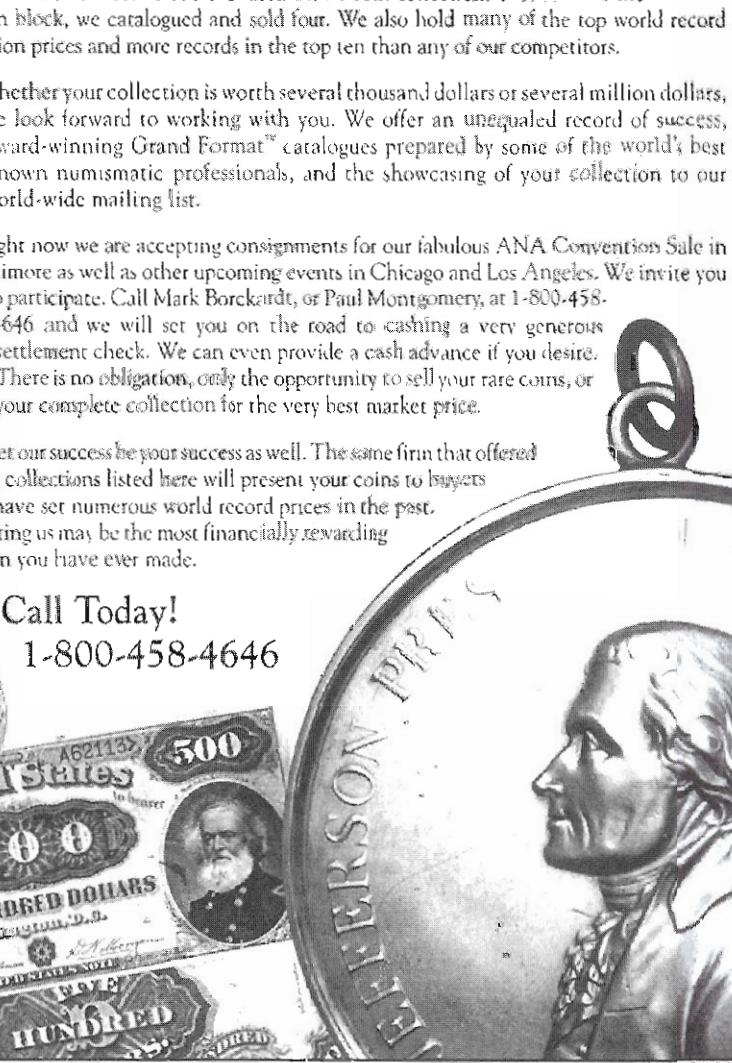
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# The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to  
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as  
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844-1869) with a primary focus on his  
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.  
*Founded 1991*

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the editor.

### On the cover...

The 1858 Pattern cents have become a popular set for adventurous collectors. In addition to the adopted designs, the Flying Eagle and Indian Head, is the Small Eagle design, believed to be by Longacre's assistant engraver, Anthony Paquet. Many of Paquet's patterns feature tall letters as seen on this pattern.

Image by Paul Houck

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### Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's E-mail address below. Unformatted text or MS word preferred. Please save images as separate files (JPG or TIF preferred)
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a 3.5" PC-formatted disk or CD-W disk to the Editors address below.
- ✓ Hard copies of the article and pictures may also be included.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

### Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion.

Issue	Deadline	Issue date
#57 2003 Vol. 13.3	.... August 15, 2003	.... September 2003
#58 2003 Vol. 13.4	.... November 15, 2003	December 2003
#59 2004 Vol. 14.1	.... February 15, 2004	March 2004
#60 2004 Vol. 14.2	.... May 15, 2004	June 2004

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## Presidents Letter

### Chris Pilliod



This is my 14th letter as president. I have taken a 3-month hiatus from coins, as this has been an exceptionally busy time for me. I spent this spring shopping and reviewing mini-vans, and after much deliberation we decided on the new 2004 Toyota Sienna as transportation for two adults and three young boys. Each child will have his own seat, which I am hoping will minimize (better yet, eliminate) disparaging interaction on long trips. And little Henry will have his own seat to contemplate whatever parcel of life nine-month olds are concerned about... probably food.

I also dug a big hole in our front yard and filled it with nearly 3000 pounds of rock and 9 yards of topsoil for some much needed landscaping. It's been a very damp and dreary spring in eastern PA and I now know what a hog feels like wallowing around in the mud. In this issue I show a photo from the project at his halfway point and for the next issue I will try to get a shot of the completed project. We took one of Henry's baby food jars and we each placed a quarter in it from the state where we were born. I rummaged up an old 1927-S Lincoln cent for wife, who was born in California, the only state not yet issued for our family. I dug an extra foot deeper for the tree and buried the jar beneath where it now rests.

The two older boys have discovered the joy of baseball so when my back needed a rest I would head to the backyard to pitch to them. It's amazing how some aspects never change. I recall as a youngster in Little League back in Ohio how much I liked catching pop-ups in the outfield. I'd circle around them and occasionally they'd hit my mitt. Now when I head out with the boys first thing out of their mouths is "Hit us some pop-ups." Kids still play with "Ghostmen" and "Shadowmen" on the bases but bats are now made from aluminum not wood and baseball cards have been replaced by "Yugioh" cards (type in "Yugioh" on eBay some time—wow!).

On the numismatic horizon is this year's ANA Convention in Baltimore. The last convention in Baltimore was highly regarded and many collectors and dealers are already buzzing about the opportunities for fresh material and large crowds. Two of our member's collections will be highlighted in auction sales at Baltimore. Some of Larry Steve's vast collection will be going on the block through American Numismatic Rarities Auctions. In addition the Bill Fivaz Collection will be on the block by Bowers and Merena. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The club will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> in Room 319. Pertinent club information will be discussed and will include a presentation. We'd love to see you there.



## Announcements

This years ANA convention is highlighted by selections from the Larry R. Steve Collection of Flying Eagle and Indian Cent varieties. This portion of Larry's collection features the most complete sets of specific dates ever assembled. The 1857, 1858, 1859 and 1864 With L dates are as complete as ever seen. Also included are the top varieties of each date.

The collection is featured in the first auction by American Numismatic Rarities, the Wolfeboro NH firm that was formed by the employees who quit Bowers and Merena after the ouster of that firm's founder, Q. David Bowers. Bowers and Merena is part Collectors Universe, the NASDAQ traded company (CLCT) which also owns PCGS. ANR is not a public company and has, in its short history, gained the respect and admiration of the entire collecting community.

Larry Steve is co-founder of the Fly-In Club and a frequent contributor to its content. Below is a lot list of the Larry R. Steve collection.

132 1857	Snow-1	MS-65 PCGS	169 1864 No L	S-1	MS-65RD PCGS
133 1857	S-2d	MS-64 PCGS	170 1864 No L	S-4b	MS-64RB ANACS
134 1857	S-3	MS-64 PCGS	171 1864 With L	S-1	MS-64RB PCGS
135 1857	S-4	MS-64 PCGS	172 1864 With L	S-2	MS-65RB PCGS
136 1857	S-5	MS-64 PCGS	173 1864 With L	S-3	MS-64RB PCGS
137 1857	S-7	AU-58 NGC	174 1864 With L	S-4	MS-64RB PCGS
138 1857	S-8	MS-65 NGC	175 1864 With L	S-5b	MS-64RB PCGS
139 1857	S-9	MS-65 NGC	176 1864 With L	S-6	MS-64RB PCGS
140 1857	Clashed die set #138-140		177 1864 With L	S-8	MS-64RD PCGS
141 1857	S-10	MS-61 ANACS	178 1864 With L	S-10a	MS-65RB NGC
142 1857	S-11	MS-63 PCGS	179 1864 With L	S-11	MS-65RB NGC
143 1857	S-14	MS-64 PCGS	180 1864 With L	S-12	MS-64RB ANACS
144 1857	S-15	MS-63 NGC	181 1864 With L	S-14	MS-64RB NGC
145 1857	S-16	MS-64 NGC	182 1864 With L	S-16	MS-63RB NGC
146 1858 LL	S-1	MS-64 PCGS	183 1864 With L	S-17	MS-65RB NGC
147 1858 SL	S-2	MS-64 NGC	184 1864 With L	S-20	MS-64RB NGC
148 1858 SL	S-3a	MS-63 ANACS	185 1864 With L		MS-65RB NGC
149 1858 SL		MS-64 PCGS	186 1864 With L		MS-65RB NGC
150 1858 LL	S-7	MS-62 NGC	187 1865 Plain 5	S-3a	MS-65RB NGC
151 1858 LL	S-9	MS-63 ANACS	188 1865 Fancy 5	S-2a	MS-63RD NGC
152 1858 LL		MS-64 PCGS	189 1866	S-1	MS-64RB PCGS
153 1858	J-208	PR-63 PCGS	190 1866	S-3a	MS-64RB PCGS
154 1859	S-1	MS-62 NGC	191 1867	S-5b	MS-65RB ANACS
155 1859	S-2	MS-65 PCGS	192 1868	S-1	MS-65RD NGC
156 1859	S-3	MS-63 NGC	193 1869	S-3d	MS-65RB ANACS
157 1859	S-4	EF-40 ANACS	194 1869		MS-64RD PCGS
158 1859	S-5	MS-63 PCGS	197 1870	S-5	VG-8ANACS
159 1859	S-6	AU-58 ANACS	198 1870 Bold N		MS-64RD ANACS
160 1859	J-228	MS-64 PCGS	199 1871	S-1a	MS-64RB ANACS
161 1860 T1		MS-64 PCGS	200 1872	S-1	MS-64RB PCGS
162 1860 T2	S-1	AU-50 ANACS	201 1873 Closed 3	S-1b	AU-50 ANACS
163 1861	S-2	MS-65 NGC	202 1873 Closed 3	S-2b	MS-64RB PCGS
164 1862	S-2	MS-64 ANACS	203 1873 Open 3	S-6	MS-65RB NGC
165 1863	S-4	MS-64 NGC	204 1874	S-1	MS-64RB NGC
166 1863	S-10	MS-64 NGC	205 1875	S-3a	MS-64RD PCGS
167 1864 CN		MS-64 PCGS	206 1876		MS-64RB ANACS
168 1864 CN	S-4	MS-63 ANACS	207 1877	S-2	MS-63RB NGC
			208 1878	S-1	MS-64RB PCGS
			209 1878	S-2	MS-65RB NGC
			210 1879	S-2	MS-64RB ANACS
			211 1880	S-1	MS-65RD ANACS
			212 1881	S1	MS-63RB PCGS
			213 1882	S-1	MS-64RB PCGS
			214 1883	S-1	MS-66RB NGC
			215 1883	S-7	MS-65RB ANACS
			216 1883	S-8	MS-65RD NGC
			217 1884	S-1	MS-63RD NGC
			218 1885	S-1	MS-65BN NGC
			219 1885		MS-64RD PCGS
			220 1886 T1	S-4	MS-65RB PCGS
			221 1886 T1		MS-64RD PCGS
			222 1886 T2	S-8	MS-64RB PCGS
			223 1886 T2		MS-63RB PCGS
			224 1887	S-1	AU-50 ANACS
			225 1888	S-1	VF-20 PCGS

226 1888	S-2	MS-63RB ANACS	241 1900	S-4	MS-65RB ANACS
227 1889	S-11	MS-65RB ANACS	242 1901	S-1	MS-64RB ANACS
228 1889	S-31	MS-64RB ANACS	243 1902	S-4	MS-63RB ANACS
229 1890	S-1	MS-65RD NGC	244 1903	S-17	MS-64RD ANACS
230 1890	S-16	MS-63RB ANACS	245 1904	S-1	MS-65RB NGC
231 1891	S-7	MS-63RB ANACS	246 1905	S-8	MS-65RB ANACS
232 1892	S-1	MS-63RB ANACS	247 1906	S-2	MS-64RB ANACS
233 1893	S-2	MS-64RD NGC	248 1907	S-2	MS-64RD PCGS
234 1894	S-1	MS-65RD ANACS	249 1908	S-1	MS-63RB ANACS
235 1895	S-1	MS-65RD PCGS	250 1908-S	S-1a	AU-58 ANACS
236 1895	S-2	MS-65RB NGC	251 1909-S		MS-64RD PCGS
237 1896	S-1	MS-63RB PCGS	252 1909	S-1	MS-65RD PCGS
238 1897	S-1	MS-64RB ANACS	253 1909-S		MS-64RD PCGS
239 1898	S-25	MS-65RD ANACS			
240 1899	S-1	MS-66RB ANACS			

### *Whatwasit, Anyway?*

*By Chris F. Pilliard*

Here is the answer to last issue's "Whatizzit?". In the last issue we wrote: Take a close look between the words "ONE" and "CENT" on the reverse of this example. One can see the image of denticles running vertically. This phenomena while common on coins of the screw press era become quite rare once a metal collar was used around the anvil die. In fact, only about a half dozen different dies exhibit this from the Longacre era. It is a result of striking of the obverse die at a severe angle with the reverse die and the denticles from the obverse clash against the reverse, leaving behind an impression on all coins struck from the die pair.

The question was: What is the date of this small cent?

- a. **1870.** Behhhh! No off-center clashed dies are known for this date.
- b. **1880.** Behhhh! The Snow-1 is a very bold and popular off-center clash, but it is not the one pictured. See the image below.
- c. **1890.** Ding-Ding! Yes, this is the variety pictured, It's Snow-16 and is quite rare and popular.
- d. **1900.** Behhhh! No off-center clashed dies are known for this year either.
- e. **1910 (leftover dies from 1909).** Behhhh! Are you kidding me?
- f. **It's really a 2001 Sacagewea Dollar.** Behhhh! Not a chance!

The winner is Dr. Tim Larson. Many of the answers received were wrong.



*1890 Snow-16*



*1880 Snow-1*

## How Many are There, Anyway?

By Dr. Tim Larson

The "How Many Are There" column will now be reported twice a year in Longacre's Ledger (June and December issues). Please send your new finds to Tim Larson at [Larsontlm@msn.com](mailto:Larsontlm@msn.com). The following collectors reported new finds, these being added to the report for the first half of the year 2003.

**Steve Witkowski:** 1857 S8 MS63.

**Tim Cartwright:** 1870 MPD S8 G-VG.

**Ron Pope:** 1890 S1 AU SEGS.

**Jim Lee:** 1857 S9 (2) VG, (2) Fine, (1) VF, (2) AU; 1857 S8 (2) AU (1 is AU-58); 1857 S7 Fine; 1857 S11 AU; 1858 LL S1 (EDS) VF; 1858 LL S7 VF.

**Colin Sumrall:** 1857 S7 Good; 1857 S9 EF; 1858/7 S1 EDS EF; but has old cleaning so net VF; (2) 1894 S1 Good.

**Bill Van Note:** 1857 S9 MS-63 PCGS.

**Rick Snow:** 1897 S1 MS-64RB PCGS; 1859 S1 MS-62. Happy hunting everyone.

Date	Snow	Variety	G-VG	F-VF	EF	AU	MS60-62	MS63	MS64	MS65-66	MS66	TOTAL
1857	S9	50¢ Obv. Clash	35	38	9	5	1	3	4	2	1	98
1857	S8	25¢ Rev. Clash	3	15	8	8	4	2	1	1	0	42
1857	S7	\$20 Obv. Clash	17	15	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	37
1857	S11	RPD	0	2	3	2	3	2	0	2	0	14
1858 LL	S1	1858/7 (EDS)	3	16	10	15	4	3	5	0	0	56
1858 LL	S7	1/1858/7	0	6	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	13
1859	S1	RPD	6	7	7	8	2	0	1	0	0	31
1864 No L	S4	DDO 1-O-V	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	7
1864 No L	S11	Con. Die Lines	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
1865 Fancy 5	S2	DDR 1-R-IV	5	5	3	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
1865 Fancy 5	S1	5/4 digit punch	3	1	2	5	0	1	2	1	0	15
1865 Plain 5	S1	Plain 5 /Fancy 5	0	3	1	1	1	1	5	2	0	14
1866	S1	DDO 1-O-V	2	16	7	5	3	2	3	2	1	40
1866	S3	RPD	6	6	2	3	3	2	2	1	0	25
1867	S1	RPD	42	25	12	4	7	6	15	5	0	116
1868	S1	DDO 1-O-III	0	3	7	5	3	4	5	1	1	29
1869	S1	RPD	4	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	11
1870	S1	DDO 1-O-IV (3)	0	2	13	7	7	4	7	1	0	41
1870	S3	DDO 2-O-IV	0	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	7
1870	S5	DDO 3-O-IV	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
1870	S5	MPD	8	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	11
1870	S8	MPD	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	10
1872	S1	RPD	4	5	2	1	2	1	4	1	0	20
1873 Closed 3	S1	DDO 1-O-III	38	36	16	20	7	4	3	2	0	126
1873 Closed 3	S2	DDO 2-O-III	0	8	9	11	8	7	4	3	0	50
1873 Open 3	S6	MPD	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	9
1873 Open 3	S1	RPD	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
1874	S1	DDO 1-O-V	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	1	0	8
1880	S1	O/C Clash Rev.	1	3	2	4	2	4	3	2	0	21
1882	S6	MPD	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
1883	S1	MPD	12	6	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	32
1884	S1	MPD	2	9	5	4	1	0	2	1	0	24
1887	S1	DDO 1-O-V	36	22	8	6	1	2	1	0	0	76
1888	S1	1888/7	8	6	1	2	4	2	1	1	0	25
1888	S2	RPD	5	6	1	7	2	1	1	0	0	23
1888	S8	MPD	3	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	14
1889	S1	DDR 1-R-III	3	7	6	10	2	2	3	1	0	34
1890	S1	QDO 1-O-II (3)	1	4	3	9	2	2	2	2	0	25
1891	S1	DDO 1-O-IV	10	6	4	7	3	1	3	1	0	35
1891	S7	MPD	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	8
1891	S3	RPD	15	11	6	12	3	6	7	1	0	61
1894	S1	RPD	100	31	10	4	5	9	9	4	2	174
1894	S2	MPD	10	4	3	5	1	0	3	0	0	26
1897	S1	MPD	52	31	16	8	2	5	3	0	0	117
1907	S27	MPD	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3

## ***Fun With Indian Cents***

*Featuring coins from the collection of  
Tim Gagne  
written by Rick Snow*

Have you got a lot of time on your hands? Well over the years some people have had a LOT of time on their hands. Here are a few examples of oddities which were shown to me by Fly-In Member Tim Gagne at the recent Mid-America Coin Expo in Chicago, IL.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

Here is an 1853 Large Cent with a Flying Eagle Cent inserted in to the center. My guess is that this a membership token of some sorts. Show it to the right person and you get into the "Back room."



*Fly-In Club image Library*

This is an 1846 Large Cent with an 1859 Indian cent inserted into it. The reverse sort of looks like a normal coin design with the legend surrounding the wreath. With out the dual date on the obverse (just remove the 1859) and wal-ah! You have an early bimetallic pattern.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

This is an early "push-out" cent. The coin was hollowed out, and the designs were pushed out to create extremely high relief devices. The coin is filled with a base metal.

Perhaps these were sold at Coney Island for 50¢. Sell enough and you can retire.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

This is a crude piece, perhaps created by a soldier during an idle hour during the siege of Vicksburg 140 years ago. Equally possible, it could have been done by a kid in 1972 playing with his father's collection in the basement. It looks like a small Assay Office \$50 Gold piece from California.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

Here is lady LIBERTY with a WW I style German helmet. The date is also altered to 1395. Perhaps a fancy piece that was glued to the belt buckle of a soldier in the Boar Wars. Perhaps the portrait is supposed to be William Wallace.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

Is it really a 1859 Flying Eagle Cent? A closed look shows many funny things with this odd coin. The legend says "Issac Stevens Vanderbilt", with "Happy New Year" on the back. Perhaps these were party gifts for attendees of some bash that Mr. Vanderbilt threw to honor the new year.

The coin is an electrotype with the shells further punched in from behind with the modified wording. The shells are then joined. The finished "coin" will mystify all your friends. Makes a great gift.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

This is just an ordinary love token for "Daisy". I'm sure she was pleased.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

Here's a two-cent piece with the reverse altered to show a man, probably named Bill, with a sour expression on his face. The legend reads PO-STN-OBI-LLS. The dashes were inserted to make the message less obvious.



*Fly-In Club image Library*

The reverse of this 1857 Flying Eagle Cent was engraved with a design similar to the 1853 with rays reverse Half Dollar. There is a small ship under the right wing. The legend has some reversed letters which makes no sense to me. Is it SAGROMETT?

*The Proof 1871 Indian Cent*  
By Timothy B. Cartwright

The 1871 Indian Cent has the distinction of being one of the lowest mintage years of the series. As a result, the demand for business strikes exceeds the supply — making the popularity of the proofs greater than other dates. Collecting this date as a proof is challenging because choice proofs are difficult to find and certain die pairs have interesting quirks. The 1871 proof series offers something for every Indian Cent connoisseur.

There are four known die pairs with one particular die pair making up around 90% of the known specimens. The vast majority of these proof coins are impaired. Only the early die state of die pair #1 contains the most visually pleasing examples. For the variety specialists, die pair #2 could almost be classified as a mule. Its date punch was used on the 2-cent piece and its shallow N reverse design was used in 1868. If rarity is what you're looking for, then die pair #'s 3 & 4 are for you. They have an R-7 rating as only 1 specimen is known for each pair.

Please read on as this article shares details of the proof portion of a 4-year study on the die pairs of the 1871-cent.

### Population

The actual number of proofs minted is unknown. Experts such as Snow and Bowers estimate the proof mintage to be around 960 ranging from 850 to 1,100. The estimate is based roughly on the number of proof sets sold and a guess of the number of over-the-counter sales of individual coins. Regardless, low mintage of both proof and business strikes insures its rarity in all aspects.

How many proof cents are in existence today? It is a difficult question to answer, especially since the actual number minted is estimated. However, supporting evidence of its rarity is the low number of 1871 proofs that have been offered for sale. For example, a large, nationally known firm has offered only 53 examples since 1994 and a popular on-line auction has sold only 18 specimens since 1996.

Educated guesses can be made about the current population. Several factors were considered and the detailed calculation is shown in appendix 1. A key factor in this determination was an actual count. Since 1999, a total 122 proof coins in all grades and conditions were viewed. This count was gleaned from auction catalogues, on-line auctions, on-line showrooms, and browsing at shows. This was most helpful in determining condition census and rarity numbers. As a result, the best guess as to number of 1871 proof cents currently in existence is 600.

### Die Pairs

The attribution of die pairs has evolved rapidly since the early 1990's. In 1992, "Flying Eagle & Indian Cents" by Snow recognizes a "Long Date" and a "Short Date" with no mention of the reverse dies. Bowers guide, in 1996, mentions "...two obverse dies styles...one with the 71 separated (wide date) and the other with 71 nearly touching (close date)..." Bowers mentions the reverse being the same as the 1864-L restrike but didn't distinguish reverses between 1871 die pairs. He did discuss the rarity of the date logos. (A very important and interesting feature of the "close date" is the fact that it was intended for the 2-cent piece). Bowers' rarity estimate was as few as 1 in 10 proofs with close date. Close images of the wide date and close date can be seen in Figures 1 & 2.



*Figure 1: Wide date*  
Tim Cartwright



*Figure 2a: Close date*  
Tim Cartwright

The 1998 Attribution Files by Snow lists three die pairs with recognition of the reverse types. Die pair #1 (PR1) is the wide date variety with the shallow N reverse of 1868A (Figure 3). Die pair #2 (PR2) is the close date variety with the same shallow N reverse of 1868A (Figure 4). Die pair #3 (PR3) is the close date variety with a bold N reverse (Figure 5).



Figure 3: Die pair 1, Wide date and shallow N.



Figure 4: Die pair 2, Close date and shallow N.



Figure 5: Die pair 3, Close date and bold N.

A spectacular find was made Rick Snow in 2003. A 4<sup>th</sup> die pair (PR4) was discovered while cataloging the Goldberg Pre-Long Beach auction. This die pair features a “touching” date and a bold N reverse (Figure 6). As a bonus, the first 1 is repunched.



*Ira & Larry Goldberg*

**Figure 6a: Die pair 4, Close date, bold N reverse. Repunched 1st 1.**

#### Eye Appeal

Unfortunately, the 1871 proof cents didn't age well. Their fate was sealed at the beginning of the minting process when the ingots were produced. Most of the planchets in the proof mintage were from poorly mixed alloys. As a result, they didn't tone evenly and have streaky appearances. Further, a considerable number were compromised by wear or cleaning. So, the key to finding an appealing 1871 proof is to be patient. (An excellent place to get started collecting quality proof cents is the articles by Ronald Sirna in the December 2002 Ledger).

Over 120 proof cents were examined as part of this study. Only 9 of the study group could be considered truly “Red.” (Snow has Photo Sealed less than 10 examples as Red). The nicest proof specimens were seen in the early die states of die pair #1. Three of these coins were graded 66 Red and 2 coins were graded 66 Red-Brown. The major grading companies have slabbed a total of 68 Red's at the 65 and 66 levels. From the evidence collected in the study, these grading service populations are most likely skewed by resubmissions.

How about the quality of the other 3 die pairs? Well, only 7 specimens of die pair #2 have been seen. All have an unnatural blond color and streaky texture. (This texture can be seen in figure 2 above). They obviously came from the same ingot of poorly mixed metals. Visually, the nicest known specimen of die pair #2 was sold by Snow in March 2003.



**Figure 6b: 7 & 1 touch, repunched 1st. 1**

This author has examined only 1 example of die pair #3 and 1 example of die pair #4. A valid judgment can't be made as to the quality of the entire population. However, these specimens are definitely better quality than that of die pair #2.

If you are looking for flawless, problem-free proof specimens, then you must concentrate on the early die states of die pair #1.

## An Interesting Theory About Die Pair #1

As mentioned earlier, it is important to find an early die state of die pair #1. The reason is that several examples of this die pair began showing up in circulated low grades. It also became clear that many of the coins examined were unattractive and lacked the typical proof diagnostics. A theory emerged that this die pair was later used for business strikes. Indeed, the grading companies have slabbed several die pair #1 specimens as mint state.

The most telling diagnostic for the later die states (or possible business strikes) is the obverse denticles from 9:00 to 11:00. The denticles in this region have simply been polished away. The best example to show the key diagnostic is graded PF64BN by PCGS and shown in Figure 7.



*Figure 7: Possible business strike of die pair #1. Late die state — obverse denticles missing at 10:00.*

### Condition Census and Rarity

Here is a breakdown of the estimated extant proof cents in all conditions and grades. A detailed analysis of each of the die pairs follows.

Die Pair	Original Mintage	No. Seen in this Study	Current Population	Rarity
PR1	889	113	555	R-2
PR2	55	7	35	R-5
PR3	8	1	5	R-7
PR4	8	1	5	R-7
Total	960	122	600	

## Die Pair #1 (PR1)

This die pair is by far the most common. It's population makes up over 90% of the extant examples. A total of 555 are estimated to be in existence. An estimated 39.4% are considered problem-free (From Snow's estimate of 1877 proofs in The Numismatist, 1998 article). This means that only 218 unimpaired examples of PR1 exist. Remember, the late die state version of this pair could possibly be mint state. Using the percentages by grade from the study total, the problem-free extant census is as follows:

PR63 BN	63 RB	63 RD	64 BN	64 RB	64 RD	65 BN	65 RB	65 RD	66 BN	66 RB	66 RD
4	20	5	1	51	7	11	63	11	0	4	5

Die pair 2 (PR2)											
PR63 BN	63 RB	63 RD	64 BN	64 RB	64 RD	65 BN	65 RB	65 RD	66 BN	66 RB	66 RD
1	2	0	1	2	1	2	5	2	0	0	0

## Die Pair #3 (PR3)

How about a rarity challenge? This author has seen only one example of this die pair in an on-line auction in 1999. The obverse die is the same as in PR2. It is paired with a bold N reverse. The best statistical analysis concludes that no more than 10 were minted and in existence. This was probably minted late in the year after all the other proof sets had sold out. An influential numismatist probably requested a proof cent and the mint produced one with this die pair.

## Die Pair #4 (PR4)

Talk about rarity!! The only known version of this die pair was not discovered until March of 2003. Both dies are newly attributed. The obverse is unique in that the 7 and 1 actually touch. The first 1 is repunched similarly to that of the S-2 but further study is needed to verify if it is the same die. Snow states that the die striations on this die pair could make it easily mistaken for a mint state coin. As with PR3, this coin was probably produced very late in the year (or even later as a restrike) as a result of special request by an influential collector.

## Conclusion

The proof mintage of 1871 should pique the interest of any Indian Cent collector. Eye appealing specimens are elusive because of poor planchet quality and the estimated 600 examples in existence. The finest quality specimens are from the early die state of die pair #1 and, most likely, less than 30 truly red cents exist. Later, die pair #1 quite possibly was used for business strikes because of several circulated examples, excessive die polishing and lack of proof-like qualities. Die pair #2 should intrigue variety specialists because of the 2-cent date punch, obsolete shallow N reverse and rarity. Those interested in extreme rarity would savor die pairs #3 or #4 as less than 10 examples are in existence.

## Die Pair #2 (PR2)

PR2 has everything a variety collector should want. The date punch was meant for 2-cent pieces and the reverse has a shallow N style from 1868. It's R-5 rarity makes it difficult to find. Every known specimen is aesthetically challenged by a streaky planchet and blond color. Less than 20 specimens exist problem-free and probably no more than 50 were minted. This variety should command a premium because of its features and rarity. It is this author's opinion that this die pair was used first – possibly as a die strike trial. The reverse die was later set up for PR1. From the same procedure as before:

### Die pair 1 (PR1)

PR63 BN	63 RB	63 RD	64 BN	64 RB	64 RD	65 BN	65 RB	65 RD	66 BN	66 RB	66 RD
4	20	5	1	51	7	11	63	11	0	4	5

### Die pair 2 (PR2)

PR63 BN	63 RB	63 RD	64 BN	64 RB	64 RD	65 BN	65 RB	65 RD	66 BN	66 RB	66 RD
1	2	0	1	2	1	2	5	2	0	0	0

### References

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2. "A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents," Bowers, D., pp 329 – 332, 1996.
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4. "Collecting Proof Indian Cents for Fun," Sirna, R., in "Longacre's Ledger," December 2002.
5. "A Date, Grade, and Color Analysis of Proof Indian Head Cents," Sirna, R., in "Longacre's Ledger," December 2002.
6. "The Indian Head Cent of 1877," Snow, R., in "The Numismatists," pg. 232, 1998.
7. "The Dr. Jacob Turner Auction Catalogue," Goldberg Pre-Long Beach Expo Auction, Lot 1085, 2003.

### Appendix

#### Example Calculations

Estimated mintage from Snow and Bowers: 960  
Estimated mintage of the 1877 proof from Snow and Bowers: 910  
Estimated population of 1877 proof from Snow: 800  
Estimated population of unimpaired 1877 proof cents from Snow: 300  
Actual count of die pair #1 proof cents in this study: 113  
Actual count of all proof cents in this study: 122  
Actual count of coins grading 66RD: 3  
Total number of proof 1871 cents slabbed from PCGS, NGC and ANACS: 236

Total number of proof 1877 cents slabbed from PCGS, NGC and ANACS: 315

Assume all problem-free examples of both 1871 and 1877 are slabbed.  
Assume the same percentage of slabbed to total extant is same for 1871 as 1877.

Percentage of slabbed 1877 cents to total population:  
 $315/800 = 0.394$

Number of 1871 cents in existence:  $236/0.394 = 599$

Number of die pair #1 in existence:

$113/122 = .926$        $0.926 \times 599 = 555$

Number of die pair #1 unimpaired:

$300/800 = 0.375$        $0.375 \times 555 = 208$

Number of die pair #1 existing as 66RD:

$3/113 = 0.0265$        $0.0265 \times 208 = 5.5$

*A counterfeit 1909-S Indian Cent.*

*By Richard Snow*



*Fly-In Club image Library*

*1909-S Counterfeit*



*Fly-In Club image Library*

*Obverse counterfeit*



*Fly-In Club image Library*

*Reverse counterfeit*

Recently, Fly-In Club member Dale Cheney submitted two 1856 Flying Eagle Cents, a 1886 Indian cent and what was believed to be a new variety 1909-S Indian cent for attribution. Dale was curious about the repunching on the date of the 1909-S and die lines by the mintmark.

Even before I got the coins I was suspicious about the 1909-S. It is known that starting in 1909 the Mint began adding the dates to the obverse hubs. A repunched date cannot exist for this year. Any doubling on the date from 1909 forward has to be caused by die doubling, not repunching.

Upon examination, my suspicions were proved correct. The first difference with the coin was the edge, which had a sharp edge and a partial wire rim. All 1909-S Indians have a beveled edge and rounded rims.

The doubling on the date was caused by strike doubling, which could happen on real coins, but again, is unusual for a 1909-S. The reverse showed die file marks unknown on any 1909-S reverse die.

This false die counterfeit is made from dies created using a high quality transfer process. It has very convincing surfaces and I think 50% of the collectors out there would accept it as real.

# Very Fine: VF-20, VF-30 or VF, VF+

Moderate wear, Head band complete, lower hair curl joined to ribbon.



**Minimum:**

*Lower edge of headband clear and distinct.*

VF and XF are target grades for many collectors and are easily defined by the remaining detail on the coin.

*A VF coin will have a full headband (or ribbon) by LIBERTY, but the ribbon end with the diamond detail will be connected to the lower hair curl.*

*A basic XF coin will have the lower hair curl clearly separated from the ribbon end.*

This is very clearly defined and easy to understand. It is a wonder that so many grading services get it wrong!

**Never underestimate the other guy's greed!**

It seems that most graders at the grading services use a flimsy standard called "market grading". As I understand it, they mold the grade of the coin to the market demand. If it is a choice VF with few marks they may give the coin an XF grade. There are many VF coins in some of the tougher dates, like 1877, in certified holders graded AU! As a coin buyer, you must take these differences into account when pricing a coin. Use this guide as the ultimate test for a coin's grade and apply it to the price structure at the end of this guide.



**Maximum:**

*Lower hair curl connected to ribbon.*

For choice VF coins which may otherwise look like XF, but for some reason lack the defining detail, VF-30 can be used. The dividing line between a typical VF (VF-20) and a choice VF (VF-30) is not so clearly defined. Some time it could be the amount of marks, other times it could be the strike which determines whether a coin is typical or choice.

Many times a coin could have been struck weakly to begin with. This poorly made coin falls through the grades as it circulates from AU-50 to VF-20 without ever being eligible to be assigned a grade in between! For example a coin with a weak strike which mushes out the feather tips and lower ribbon may have AU luster but VF detail. Be very careful with paying too much for these coins. Sure, buyer and seller may agree the surfaces qualify for a higher grade, but in the end it is better to buy a coin with a solid strike and not have to worry about an additional grading question.

*The quality is long remembered  
long after the price is forgotten*

Pricing for VF's should never get too far behind the XF prices. If the price for a VF is less than 1/2 the XF price then one is either too cheap or too expensive. Over time the market will correct these imbalances.

# Extremely Fine: XF-40, XF-45 or XF, XF+

Light wear on the highest points.

Ribbon and lower hair curl are separated. A trace of luster may show.



## *Minimum:*

*Lower hair curl separate from ribbon.*

A typical XF (XF-40) will have good detail, complete lower ribbon, but the diamond detail will not be full. This may be cause of strike or wear. If the missing diamond are due to strike then the feathertips may also be weak, and there may be some luster present. If the missing diamonds are due to wear, then the feathertips may be somewhat full but the may be no luster. There will, of course, always be some exceptions.

*Choice XF (XF-45) will have full diamond detail.*

Many collectors desire well struck coins and target XF-45 for this reason. Any coin which fails this easy guideline should be called either XF-40 or AU-50.

All coins are have their destiny set the instant they are struck. If a coin is struck poorly, it starts out as a lower MS grade and will fall down to AU-50 then to XF-40, VF-20, etc. without ever have the chance of being graded "choice" anything! Barring some unfortunate mishandling, a well struck coin always has the benefit of gaining the "choice" qualifier.

*Strike is independent of the grade, but not of the quality.*

## *Maximum:*

*Some Mint luster still shows.*

Because of the higher demand for XF-45, there is a higher pricing structure for these coins over XF-40's. These prices may not be reflected properly in many pricing guides. Usually only XF-40 is given as a pricing column. The buyer of XF-45 coins should expect to pay a 10% to \$25 premium over XF-40 prices. On the other hand many happy buyers will find sellers mistakenly quoting XF-40 prices for XF-45 coins.

Be careful with problem pieces. Heavy corrosion typically lowers the value to that of a G or VG. Many sellers will only slightly discount these pieces, but in reality, they are drastically overcharging!

In determining the difference between an XF and AU, we turn from looking at detail loss to the amount of luster remaining on the coin.

*Luster is not the same as color!*

Many collectors commonly confuse the luster of the coin with original red color on the coin. A typical XF coin will be a chocolate brown color, either milk or semisweet. The luster is the original surfaces of the coin. On XF's luster will typically be seen only in the protected areas of the field. Setting a definite percentage of remaining luster as a dividing line between XF and AU is very difficult.

	VF-20	VF-30	XF-40	XF-45
1859	\$45	\$60	\$95	\$110
1859/1859 (S-1)	\$250	\$350	\$750	\$1,250
1860 Type 1	\$50	\$65	\$100	\$125
1860 Type 2	\$20	\$25	\$40	\$55
1861	\$50	\$65	\$95	\$110
1862	\$15	\$18	\$28	\$35
1863	\$15	\$18	\$28	\$35
1864 CN	\$40	\$50	\$65	\$75
1864 No L	\$30	\$35	\$45	\$50
1864 With L	\$125	\$135	\$175	\$185
1865 Fancy 5	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40
1865 Plain 5	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$45
1866	\$100	\$125	\$175	\$200
1867	\$100	\$125	\$175	\$200
1867/67 (S-1)	\$250	\$275	\$350	\$400
1868	\$100	\$125	\$175	\$200
1869	\$220	\$240	\$275	\$300
1869/69 (S-3)	\$250	\$275	\$325	\$350
1870 All Rev. types	\$200	\$225	\$285	\$320
1871 Shallow N	\$365	\$400	\$450	\$485
1871 Bold N	\$285	\$325	\$375	\$400
1872 Shallow N	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$575
1872 Bold N	\$325	\$375	\$425	\$450
1873 Closed 3	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$250
1873 Dbl LIB (S-1)	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,750
1873 Open 3	\$45	\$60	\$125	\$135
1874	\$45	\$55	\$85	\$100
1875	\$45	\$55	\$85	\$100
1876	\$55	\$75	\$125	\$135
1877 Shallow N	\$925	\$1,150	\$1,375	\$1,500
1878	\$75	\$85	\$125	\$135
1879	\$30	\$40	\$60	\$65
1880	\$10	\$15	\$25	\$30
1881	\$7	\$10	\$18	\$23
1882	\$7	\$10	\$18	\$23
1883	\$7	\$10	\$18	\$23
1884	\$10	\$15	\$25	\$30
1885	\$23	\$30	\$50	\$60
1886 Type 1	\$45	\$65	\$95	\$110
1886 Type 2	\$50	\$80	\$125	\$135
1887	\$6	\$10	\$15	\$17
1888	\$6	\$10	\$15	\$17
1888/7 (S-1)	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
1889	\$5	\$7	\$12	\$15
1890	\$5	\$7	\$12	\$15
1891	\$5	\$7	\$12	\$15
1891 DDO (S-1)	\$150	\$200	\$300	\$375
1891/1891 (S-3)	\$75	\$125	\$250	\$325
1892	\$5	\$7	\$12	\$15
1893	\$5	\$7	\$12	\$15
1894	\$9	\$9	\$30	\$35
1894/94 (S-1)	\$100	\$125	\$200	\$225
1895	\$4	\$6	\$12	\$15
1896	\$4	\$6	\$12	\$15
1897	\$4	\$6	\$12	\$15
1897 1 in Neck (S-1)	\$125	\$225	\$400	\$500
1898	\$4	\$6	\$12	\$15
1899	\$4	\$6	\$12	\$15
1900	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1901	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1902	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1903	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1904	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1905	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1906	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1907	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1908	\$3	\$4	\$7	\$12
1908 S	\$65	\$70	\$90	\$100
1908 S/S (S-1)	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$300
1909	\$5	\$6	\$9	\$15
1909 S	\$350	\$375	\$400	\$425

## Pricing VF - XF Indian Cents

Grading goes hand in hand with pricing. A proper understanding of each is necessary to better judge the value of coins presented for purchase. The prices presented here are for problem free coins, with original brown color. Scratches, rim bruises, heavy hits, and other relatively minor problems should lessen the price, perhaps 1 grade level. Cleaned, bent, corroded and damaged coins should not be priced using this guide.

Please compare this guide to other pricing guides. The prices here are adjusted to reflect the rarity and desirability between dates as well as between grades. Many pricing editors will adjust one date and not adjust other dates which have similar demand and rarity patterns. Dates such as 1874 and 1875 should always be priced the same. Yet one may rise out of sync of the other. This creates an opportunity for observant collectors.

These are retail prices and are linked to dealer *buying* price guides like the Coin Dealer Newsletter and the Blue Book by a percentage, which is called the dealer mark-up. This will vary between various dates and varieties. For instance, the commoner dates may be much more numerous in sellers inventories and may require a higher mark up to compensate for the cost of holding the coins for long periods of time. Other dates, such as 1877 tend to sell quickly and are always in hot demand between buyers. A smaller percentage mark-up is usually associated with these coins. Usually the smaller mark-up coins will be harder to find at discount levels. High mark-up coins can probably be found cheaper by using proper negotiating skills.

There are inherent errors in some price guides. For instance, the Coin Dealer Newsletter and Numismatic News Coin Market do not list the 1873 Closed 3 and 1886 T2 separately. Sometimes sales of these premium coins get recorded as the cheaper 1873 Open 3 and 1886 T1. This raises the overall price unfairly. This guide will help you sort out these errors as well.

The market for reverse types, like the 1871 and 1872 Shallow N are not well developed and reflect a slight premium. I include them here to make collectors aware of their existence.

Demand for the varieties in these grades is very high, as variety collectors tend to be content to cherrypick lower graded coins. But they pay the money to get coins in these grades.

XF-45 coins are, in many cases in higher demand than AU-50 graded coins, as many collectors target the overall detail, full diamonds and feathertips over coins with more luster. Because this is not reflected in the price, XF-45's are highly sought after as bargains.

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## The Registry Set Craze(iness)

By Vernon Sebby, Fly-In #474

In the announcements section of the March, 2003 "Ledger", we learned about the prices realized from the Gorrell collection. The coin that got my attention was the 1899, PCGS MS-68 Red, which realized \$69,000. That is more than virtually every 1877, proof 1864L, and 1856 Flying Eagle in existence. This is for an 1899, arguably the most common of all Indian Cents. C'mon.

Paying \$69,000 for a condition rarity Indian Cent may make more sense than \$29,000 for a high grade, common Washington Quarter, but it really hit home, when the type involved is my favorite coin. It prompted me to write the following letter, which was recently published in "Coin World":

*Every time I see the announcement of a common coin in ultra high grade (certified by one of the big two, of course) fetching another astronomical price, I marvel at how easily the marketing geniuses at the certification services have taken money from the wealthy. I wonder how those wealthy buyers made their fortunes, as, if they were this gullible in business they wouldn't be wealthy. I wonder if those rich buyers look for a difference between an MS-68 and an MS-69 coin, or if they just buy the plastic (I'll bet on just buying the plastic).*

I looked up the Professional Coin Grading Service's (PCGS) definition of these grades in their "Official Guide to Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection" (Ballantine Publishing, 1997), and found:

**MS-69** Marks – A virtually perfect coin. It usually takes an intense study of the surfaces to ascertain why the coin will not grade MS-70. Only the slightest contact marks, nearly invisible hairlines, the tiniest planchet flaws, and so on are allowable for this grade.

**MS-69** Strike – The strike is extremely sharp and will show 99+ percent of the detail intended.

**MS-69** Luster – The luster will be full and unbroken. Any toning must be attractive.

**MS-69** Eye Appeal – Superb!

**MS-68** Marks – A nearly perfect coin, with only slight imperfections visible to the unaided eye. The imperfections (tiny contact marks, minuscule hairlines, a small lint mark, etc.) will almost always be out of the range of the coin's focal points.

**MS-68** Strike – The strike will be exceptionally sharp.

**MS-68** Luster – The luster will be full (or virtually so) and "glowing". Any luster breaks will be extremely minor and usually restricted to the high points. Slight unevenness in toning is acceptable, so long as it is still attractive.

**MS-68** Eye Appeal – Exceptional, with no major detractions.

Now after reading how the professionals define grades, how easy is it to tell the difference between an MS-68 and an MS-69? Is that higher number worth paying a tenfold difference? Apparently it is to registry set builders. Won't they be disappointed when the registry set craze dies down, and it is time to sell their plastic MS-69's?

Now, one last thought, while the registry set craze is hot, what is to stop the certification services from slowly loosening their standards, to keep a few ultra high grades popping up, so somebody new can own the highest graded set?

As always, I welcome any comments to  
[melva6906@prairienet.com](mailto:melva6906@prairienet.com).

## Flying Eagle and Indian Head Ccent Patterns

The Transitional Years: 1858-1863

By A. Ronald Sirna, Jr.

Although the Flying Eagle Cent had been introduced into regular coinage in 1857 (the 1856 Flying Eagle Cents are actually Patterns), by 1858 the Mint had concluded that a design change to the Flying Eagle Cent needed to be made. The Mint was having difficulty producing fully struck coins. As designed, the relief of the Flying Eagle Cent was too high to be fully struck up under normal production methods. James B. Longacre had originally designed the Flying Eagle Cent, utilizing the Flying Eagle that Christian Gobrecht had designed for the dollars minted between 1836 and 1839, known to numismatists as "Gobrecht" Dollars. On the Flying Eagle Cent, the head and the tail of the eagle are directly opposite the reverse Agricultural Wreath, which itself was of a somewhat high relief. This reverse design was a direct copy of the reverse that Longacre had designed for the \$3 Gold piece which had been introduced in 1854.

When struck by the dies, metal flows into the recessed portions of the die (the devices). The higher the relief, the more striking pressure is needed. Copper-Nickel is a very hard metal. The harder the metal, the more striking pressure is needed. Unfortunately, this combination prevented fully struck coins unless the die striking pressure was increased. When the striking pressure is increased the dies are more prone to cracking and deteriorate quicker. In an attempt to solve this problem, the obverse dies of the Flying Eagle Cent were re-worked in 1858, probably by assistant engraver, Anthony C. Paquet. The re-worked dies had the eagle in lower relief, and had smaller letters. This resulted in the variety we know as the Small Letter obverse Flying Eagle Cent. The reverse dies were also re-worked, the relief was lowered and this reverse can be distinguished from the earlier reverse dies by the shorter inner leaves below the C and T of CENT. This unfortunately did not solve the problem, and a decision was made to change the design.

The result was a series of patterns with obverses of the two different Flying Eagles and the traditional Indian Head Cent that we know so well today, combined with four different reverses: The regular issue Agricultural Wreath that was already in use for the Flying Eagle Cents, a Laurel Leaf Wreath, a plain Oak Wreath and an Oak Wreath with Ornamental Shield. The result was a "12 piece set", consisting of 11 patterns and the regular issue Flying Eagle Cent.

This set became so popular that the mint at various times re-issued the patterns, and this resulted in several varieties of the various combination of obverses and reverses of these patterns. The Indian Head Cent obverse has both a pointed bust as issued in 1859, and a rounded bust as issued in 1860. The Laurel Leaf Wreath has both a 5 leaf Laurel Wreath and a 6 leaf Laurel Wreath variety. The 5 leaf Laurel Wreath was only used on the patterns as when the 1859 Indian Head Cent was issued it had a 6 leaf Laurel Wreath. Finally, if the three obverses were combined with the earlier Agricultural Wreath that had been produced prior to the reverse design change in 1858, there could be another variety - a high leaf Agricultural Wreath that had been originally used for the 1856 patterns, the 1857 regular issue and the Large Letter 1858 Flying Eagle Cents.

All of the patterns with the regular issue Flying Eagle Cent obverse were originally struck with the Small Letter obverse, but during the re-strikings that took place after 1858 (probably around 1860) the mint used the original Large Letter Flying Eagle Cent obverse die and the Oak Wreath with Ornamental Shield reverse die (Judd-197 and Judd-198). Supposedly, the Large Letter Flying Eagle Cent obverse die was also combined with the 5 leaf Laurel Wreath (Judd-196). Richard Snow does not believe that Judd-196 actually exists, and he questions whether Judd-197 exists also, but notes that PCGS has graded one Judd-197, and NGC has graded two. I would concur with Snow on this point noting that I had once purchased a PCGS graded Judd-198 that was in reality the Small Letter Flying Eagle Cent obverse, Judd-193. If any one has one of the 3 graded Judd-197's, it would be helpful if it could be photographed for verification as to whether it is actually the Large Letter Flying Eagle Cent obverse.



Large Flying Eagle

Small Letter

Large Letter



Paul Houck

**Indian Head**  
**Broad Bust**



Paul Houck

**Pointed Bust**



Paul Houck

**Low Leaves**



Paul Houck

**Agricultural Wreath**  
**High Leaves**



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**Small Eagle**



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**Oak Wreath**



Paul Houck

**Oak Wreath and  
Ornamented Shield**

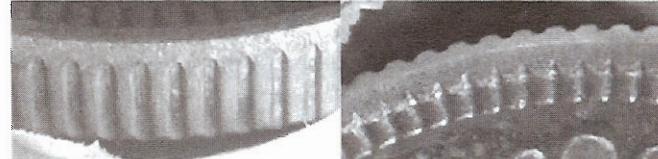
In 1859, the mint adopted the Indian Head Cent obverse design and the Laurel Leaf Wreath reverse, but with 6 leaves, not the original 5 leaf Laurel Wreath that had been used on the 1858 patterns. Although the Flying Eagle Cent was one of the shortest lived designs in American coinage, the 1859 Indian Head Cent is the shortest coin design in American coinage (or, if not the shortest, it is certainly tied for the shortest design as it existed for only one year), as in 1860 the mint replaced the 6 leaf Laurel Wreath with an Oak Wreath with a Shield, but not the large Ornamental Shield as was used on the 1858 patterns, but a smaller plain Shield. In 1859, a pattern of this exact design was made - an Indian Head obverse Cent dated 1859 with the regular issue 1860 Oak Wreath with a plain Shield reverse, Judd-228. In 1859, the mint also produced patterns with the regular issue Indian Head obverse combined with the plain Oak Wreath (Judd-226) and the regular issue Indian Head obverse combined with the Oak Wreath with Ornamental Shield (Judd-227).

In 1863 the Mint finally decided that Copper-Nickel was simply too hard a metal to continue to use to produce one cent coins. The decision was made to produce bronze coins, consisting of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc. A pattern bronze cent was issued dated 1863, consisting of the regular issue Indian Head obverse and the regular issue Oak Wreath with a plain Shield reverse that had been in use since 1860, Judd-299.

In 1863, the mint also experimented with putting a reeded edge on the Indian Head Cent coin. Several examples of these reeded edge cents were struck, both in proof and in mint state. They were struck in Copper-Nickel and the Judd-300 pattern Indian Head Cent with reeded edge is the result. It should be noted that in order to produce the reeding on the edge, a reeding collar was added during the striking. There has been much controversy as to whether the Mint State examples of Judd-300 were produced at the mint or done afterwards, outside of the mint.



**J-300**



Paul Houck

**1863 Reeded Edge pattern J-300**

In his recent book, *The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide, Volume 2 1859-1869, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, Richard Snow indicates that the earlier reference by Judd had stated that the uncirculated 1863 Copper-Nickel cents with reeded edges were privately reeded and were “fabrications” but that statement has now been omitted from the new 2003 edition of the Judd reference. Richard Snow points out that the diameter of the mint issued reeded edge cents is larger than the non-reeded edge cents. Snow states as follows: “This added diameter is due to the reeding being milled into a regular cent collar. The edges on known pieces (Judd-300) show a beveled edge, due to this added area for the planchet to fill upon striking. If the edges were milled into the coin, the edges would be exceptionally sharp. If the edges were pressed in, then the extra metal would probably be visible in the rim.” Snow believes that there are genuine mint-made uncirculated examples of Judd-300, as do the grading services as both PCGS and NGC have certified and graded mint state examples of Judd-300. All examples of Judd-300 are excessively rare.

There also exist three different 1863 patterns with the Indian Head Cent obverse design and the regular issue Oak Wreath with the plain shield, BUT the obverse is the L on the ribbon design. (Judd-301 struck in bronze, Judd-302 struck in Copper-Nickel, and Judd-304 struck in aluminum. However, these 1863-L Indian Head Cent patterns were not struck until after 1867. We can ascertain these because of two separate factors: First, aluminum was not used by the mint until 1867 - it was a very scarce and difficult metal to obtain in the 1860s, and considered to be worth more than gold; and second, the reverse dies of these patterns is the same reverse die that was used for the 1868 -1870 regular proof issues. This reverse die would have been prepared either in late 1867 in preparation for the production of the 1868 coinage or even as late as early 1868 for the striking of the 1868 Indian Head Cent regular issue proof coinage. Thus we can accurately determine that these patterns were certainly not struck prior to late 1867. As Richard Snow aptly notes in his *Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide, Volume 2 1859-1869, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*:

This time period coincides with the first term of Dr. Henry R. Linderman as Director of the Philadelphia Mint from March 1867 to April 1869. Numerous fantasy mulings, back dated patterns, restrikes and off metal issues were struck in this time, which could be called the “First Linderman restriking period.”

These different examples of the pattern coinage from 1858 to 1863 give today’s numismatists insight into how the bronze Indian Head Cent evolved from the Copper-Nickel Flying Eagle Cent and the proposals that were considered by the mint in the development process of this wonderful coin design.

*Editors note: This article is based on Ron Sirna’s fabulous display at this years ANA Money Show in Baltimore. Ron won **First Place** for the United States Coins catagory.*

*Congratulations Ron.*



1863 With L pattern J-302

*Fly-In Club Library*



1904 S18 1904, 4/4 (s).

1904 S18 1904, 4/4 (s).

**Obv. 19: (B)** Moderate repunching visible under the center bar and base of the 4.

**Rev. S:** Olive leaf and shield points well away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Jeff Landon

## How to submit coins for attribution

**What should be submitted:** Any premium value variety which is has not been previously listed in the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide. Any overdate, doubled die, repunched date, die anomaly (if it's dramatic enough to ensure collectability) and misplaced digit (provided it is dramatic enough) should be submitted.

**How to submit a coin for attribution:** There is no limit on submissions. All coins should be sent to Fly-In Club Attributor,

**Rick Snow,**  
P.O. Box 65645,  
Tucson, AZ 85728

All coins should be sent with a listing of the coins, their insurance value, and a return address and phone number.

**How much does it cost?:** Please include \$4 per coin, plus return postage. All coin will be returned via the U.S. Post Office by registered and insured postage. Their cost is \$8 plus \$1 for every \$1,000 in insured value.

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